## American Heritage Dictionary

of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION

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ish: an inextinguishable flame; an inextinguishable wuish-a-bly adv.

(in'ik-stûr'pa-bal) adj. Difficult or impossible to

(in ek-stre/mis) adv. 1. At the point of death, 2. In mstances. [Latin in extrêmis: in, in + extrêmis, aba extreme.

(ĭn-ék/strī-kə-bəl, in/ĭk-strīk/ə-bəl) adj. 1a. So as to make escape impossible; an inextricable maze; of deceit. b. Difficult or impossible to disentangle or fate. -in-ex'tri-ca-bil'i-ty, in-ex'tri-ca-bleexperience bly adv.

range nuclear forces

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2. inferior 3. infinitive 4. infinity
fall adj. 1. Incapable of erring: an infallible exice of information. 2. Incapable of failing; certain: an infallible rule. 3. Roman Catholic Church Incaaunding doctrine on faith or morals. [Middle Eng-Latin infallibilis : Latin in-, not; see IN-! + Medieval see FALLIBLE.] —in•fal/li•bil/l•ty, in•fal/li• ofal/li•bly adv.

adj. 1. Having an exceedingly bad reputa-2. Causing or deserving infamy; heinous: an infamous by severe measures, such as death, long imof civil rights. b. Convicted of a crime, such as treain-, not, see IN-' + Jāma, renown, fame; see bhā-²
'sa-mous-ly adv. —in/fa-mous-ness n.

n., pl. -mies 1. Evil fame or reputation. 2. The mamous. 3. An evil or criminal act that is publicly infamie, dishonor, from Old French, from Latin infamous, See INFAMOUS.]

se) n., pl. -cies 1. The earliest period of childhood, ability to walk has been acquired. 2. The state of 3. As early stage of existence: Space exploration is still The state or period of being a minor.

1. A child in the earliest period of life, especially walk. 2. Law A person under the legal age of ma-1. Of or being in infancy. 2. Intended for infants Newly begun or formed: an infant enterprise. [Mid-French enfant, from Latin infans, infant-, from 

(S), -fan'-) n. A daughter of a Spanish or Portuand Portuguese, feminine of infante, infante; see IN-

18 16, -fan'ta) n. A son of a Spanish or Portuguese like to the throne. [Spanish and Portuguese, both

3 One who kills an infant. Late newborn infants. 3. One who kills an infant. Late 🎎 🗱 killing of a child and *infanticida*, killer of a child : Sant; see INFANT + Latin -cidium and -cida, -cide.) at i-sid'l) adj.

tīl', -tīl) adj. 1. Of or relating to infants or inor suggesting a lack of maturity; childish: infantile temark. [Middle English infantil, from Latin Ininfant. See INFANT.

л. Autism.

Maiysis n. See poliomyelitis.

\$388 fan-tl-iz'am, în-făn'tl-) n. 1. A state of arrested wilt, characterized by retention of infantile mentalgrowth and sexual immaturity, and often by immaturity, as in behavior or character: "infan-Million of so much American cinema and culture" (John

act or remark.

n-tl-iz', In-făn'-) rr.v.-ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es 1. state or condition: "It creates a crisis that infanmen to squabble like kids about trivial things or condescend to as if still a young child: "The issettized his patient" (Judith Moore). —in•fan'-1898) n. 1898 in. (Judith Moore). —in•fan'-1898 in', -tin' adj. Infantile; childish.

n, pl. -tries 1. The branch of an army made ight on foot. 2. Soldiers armed and trained to ordered his infantry to attack. 3. A unit, such soldiers: Company B of the 7th Infantry. [French soldiers: Company B of the Amagania, from infante, seach, from Old Italian infanteria, from infante, Latin Infans, infant-, infant. See INFANT.]

Latin injans, injant-, intalic occ north wheels and often having amphibious capability, wheels and often naving ampoint them there.

(an-trē-mən) n. A soldier in the infantry. British A kindergarten.

"" färkt") n. An area of tissue that undergoes neof local blood supply, as by a thrombus infarctus, past participle of infarctre, to cram :
to stuff.] —in•farct/ed adj.

in-farc-tion (in-fark/shan) n. 1. The formation or development of an infarct. 2. An infarct,

in-fat-u-ate (in-fách/oò-āt/) m.x.-at-ed, -at-ing, -ates 1. To inspire with unreasoning love or attachment. 2. To cause to behave foolishly. \* adj. (-ît, -āt') Infatuated. [Latin înfatuare, înfatuat- : in-, causative pref.; see IN-2 + faruus, foolish.]

in-fat-u-at-ed (In-fach/oo-a'tid) adj. Possessed by an unreasoning passion or attraction. -in-fat/u-at/ed-ly adv.

in•fat•u•a•tion (i-făch'oō-ā'shən) n. 1. A foolish, unreasoning, or extravagant passion or attraction. See synonyms at love. 2. An object of extravagant, short-lived passion.

in-fau-na (in/fô/na) n. Aquatic animals that live in the substrate of a body of water, especially in a soft sea bottom. [IN-2 + FAUNA.]

in•fea•si•ble (in-fē/za-bəl) adj. Not feasible; impracticable. fea'si\*bil'i\*ty n. -in\*fea'si\*bly adv.

in-fect (in-fekt/) tr.v. -fect-ed, -fect-ing, -fects 1. To contaminate with a pathogenic microorganism or agent. 2. To communicate a pathogen or disease to. 3. To invade and produce infection in. 4. To contaminate or corrupt: envy that infected their thoughts; a society that was infected by racism. 5. To affect in a contagious way: "His fear infected me, and . . . I followed as fast as I could" (W.H. Hudson). [Middle English infecten, to afflict with disease, from Latin Inficere, Infect-, to stain, infect (in-, in; see IN-2 + facere, to do; see dhe- in Appendix I).]

in-fec-tion (in-fek/shan) n. 1a. Invasion by and multiplication of pathogenic microorganisms in a bodily part or tissue, which may produce subsequent tissue injury and progress to overt disease through a variety of cellular or toxic mechanisms. b. An instance of being infected. c. An agent or a contaminated substance responsible for one's becoming infected. d. The pathological state resulting from having been infected. 2. An infectious disease, 3a. Moral contamination or corruption. b. Ready communication of an emotion or attitude by contact or example. in-fec-tious (in-fek/shas) adj. 1. Capable of causing infection. 2. Caused by or capable of being transmitted by infection. 3. Caused by a pathogenic microorganism or agent. 4. Easily or readily communicated: an infectious laugh. —in•fec'tious•ly adv. —in•fec'tious•ness n. infectious enterohepatitis n. See blackhead (sense 2).

infectious hepatitis n. See hepatitis A.

infectious mononucleosis n. A common, acute, infectious disease, usually affecting young people, caused by Epstein-Barr virus and characterized by fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, and lymphocyte abnormalities. Also called glandular fever.

in-fec-tive (in-fek/tiv) adj. Capable of producing infection; infec--in•fec/tive•ness, in/fec•tiv/i•ty n.

In-fe-lic-i-tous (in/fi-lis/i-təs) adj. 1. Inappropriate; ill-chosen: an infelicitous remark. 2. Not happy; unfortunate. -in'feolic'iotousoly

in-fe-lic-i-ty (In'fi-lis/I-te) n., pl -ties 1. The quality or condition of being infelicitous. 2. Something inappropriate or unpleasing. [Middle English infelicite, from Latin Infelicitas, from infelix, înfelic-, unbappy : in-, not; see IN-1 + fēlīx, happy; see dhē(i)- in Appendix I.]

in-fer (in-fûr') v. -ferred, -fer-ring, -fers -tr. 1. To conclude from evidence or premises. 2. To reason from circumstance; surmise: We can infer that his motive in publishing the diary was less than honorable. 3. To lead to as a consequence or conclusion: "Socrates argued that a statue inferred the existence of a sculptor" (Academy). 4. To hint; imply. —intr. To draw inferences. [Latin inferre, to bring in, adduce: in-, in; see IN-2 + ferre, to bear; see bher-1 in Appendix I.] —in-fer/a-ble adj. —in-fer/a-bly adv. —in-fer/rer n.

Usage Note Infer is sometimes confused with imply, but the distinction is a useful one. When we say that a speaker or sentence implies something, we mean that it is conveyed or suggested without being stated outright: When the mayor said that she would not rule out a business tax increase, she implied (not inferred) that some taxes might be raised. Inference, on the other hand, is the activity performed by a reader or interpreter in drawing conclusions that are not explicit in what is said: When the mayor said that she would not rule out a tax increase, we inferred that she had been consulting with some new financial advisers, since her old advisers were in favor of tax reductions.

in-fer-ence (in/far-ans) n. 1a. The act or process of deriving logical conclusions from premises known or assumed to be true. b. The act of reasoning from factual knowledge or evidence. 2a. Something inferred. b. Usage Problem A hint or suggestion: The editorial contained an inference of foul play in the awarding of the contract. See Usage Note at infer. in-fer-en-tial (in/fo-ren/shal) adj. 1. Of, relating to, or involving inference. 2. Derived or capable of being derived by inference. -in'fereen'tialely adv.

in-fe-ri-or (in-fir/e-ar) adj. 1. Low or lower in order, degree, or rank: Captain is an inferior rank to major. 2a. Low or lower in quality, value, or estimation: inferior craft; felt inferior to his older sibling. b. Second-rate; poor: an inferior translation. 3. Situated under or beneath. 4. Botany Located below the perianth and other floral parts. Used of an ovary. 5. Anatomy Located beneath or directed downward. 6. Printing Set below the normal line of type; subscript. 7. Astronomy a. Orbiting between Earth and the sun: Mercury is an inferior planer. b. Lying below the horizon. • n. 1. A person lower in rank, status, or accomplishment than another. 2. Printing An inferior character, such as the number 2 in CO, [Middle English, from Latin Inferior, comparative of Inferus, low. See ndher- in Appendix I.] —in•fe'ri•ar'i•ty (-ôr'i-të, -ŏr'-) n. -

inferiority complex n. A persistent sense of inadequacy or a ten-

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ã pay	on out
ar care	oo took
ä father	oo boot
é pet	ŭ cut
ĕĥe .	ûr urge
Ipit	th thin
I pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ð pot	zh vision
ð toe	about, item
ð p <b>aw</b>	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: / (primary); (secondary), as in dictionary (dik/sha-nër/ë)